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P 071437Z MAR 08
FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9507
INFO RUEHZA/WHA CENTRAL AMERICAN COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS PRIORITY
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0775
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY 0027

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 000186

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE
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DEPARTMENT FOR WHA/CEN, IO/UNP AND EUR/SCE

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PREL](#) [UNAU](#) [UNMIK](#) [PGOV](#) [YI](#) [EU](#) [CS](#)
SUBJECT: COSTA RICA RECOGNIZES KOSOVO

REF: A. STATE 16271

[B](#). STATE 16319
[C](#). SAN JOSE-WHA/CEN EMAIL DATED 2/18/08

[1](#). (U) For the record, and further to refs, Post has reconfirmed that the GOCR not only recognized Kosovo, but is keen to be credited for being one of the very first nations to do so.

[2](#). (SBU) On Mar 4 we met with Alejandro Solano-Ortiz, Deputy Director of the Foreign Policy Section of the MFA and Randolph Coto, Coordinator of the Foreign Policy Section of the MFA to verify Kosovo's recognition by the GOCR. Solano-Ortiz indicated that the GOCR had recognized the new republic of Kosovo almost immediately upon Kosovo's February 17 declaration of independence. Coto proudly added that Costa Rica was first among the developing and third world countries to recognize Kosovo, and went further to point out that Afghanistan's claim of being the first was due only to the time difference between San Jose and Kabul.

[3](#). (SBU) Privately, FonMin Bruno Stagno (to Charge) and his COS Antonio Alarcon (to ADCM) have reiterated that the GOCR has recognized the newly-independent Kosovo. Stagno has also explained as much during recent interviews, including with CNN Espanol.
BRENNAN